

quantities of ivory and ammunition which were being sent to the Egyptian prisoners at Khartoum. One white man is said to have escaped capture, but the fate of the others is unknown.

Mr. Goschen, replying to Lord Churchill, said the news regarding the supposed capture of Stanley and Emin Bey was so uncertain that it would be impossible to suspend military operations until the report had been confirmed. Sustaining would be relieved without delay.

The white traveller reported to have been captured may possibly be Captain Casat, an Italian, or Jephson, Stanley's lieutenant.

Sir George Grenfell has prohibited Mr. Wyld, a merchant and philanthropist, from landing at Suakin to pray with the tribes.

It is reported that the Burra Copper Mine and machinery have been sold to a syndicate for £25,000, exclusive of 2000 acres of town lands.

The Argentine Confederation Congress has unanimously adopted a Fresh Beef Export Bounty Bill of £1,000,000.

Messrs. Sidney Carr, Glyn, A. J. Ewan, and D. Murray, of Adelaide, are reported to have joined the London board of the Bank of New Zealand.

Interest excitement prevails in connection with the Panama Canal Company's affairs. Fully sixty millions sterling had been invested in the concern. The Cabinet submitted a bill permitting the company to suspend the payment of interest for three months.

The Cabinet refused to withdraw the Panama Loan Levy Bill, and the Chamber of Deputies rejected it by 382 to 188 votes.

The Times-Parsell Commission has been adjourned until January 15.

The death is announced of Prince Alexander of Hess, father of Prince Alexander of Battenberg, at the age of 85 years.

The Maori footballers have beaten the Broughton (now Manchester) Rangers by two goals and two tries to nothing.

The closing wool sales have been postponed on account of a dense fog prevailing in London.

Mr. Gladstone, speaking at Lismore, said it was a hopeless task to attempt to conquer the Sudan. He accused the Government with wasting the time of the House, and of abridging private members' privileges.

Sixty rainfalls have fallen at Sydney during the past three days. The amount registered for the 24 hours preceding 9 o'clock yesterday morning was 24mm. 10dm., having fallen between 7.30 and 8.30 yesterday morning.

The Premier and the Minister of Justice returned to Sydney yesterday after having paid a visit to Wonthaggi. The Premier while there spoke on the Schools of Arts in the colony and our Constitution.

The American baseball teams played their first match in Sydney on Saturday, in the presence of 6000 spectators, who appeared to thoroughly enjoy the game. The All-Americans scored 5 to Chicago's 4.

A COMMEMORATIVE picnic was given to Mr. and Mrs. Hart Saturday, at Clontarf, in celebration of their early departure for Europe.

Monday, the 24th instant, has been proclaimed a holiday in honour of this colony.

A SCOUR of perfectly fresh water, estimated at 40,000 gallons per day, has been struck on Nooloobeh Station, on the Parco River, at a depth of 870ft.

Those familiar with the country despair of finding Professor Brown, of the Otago University, who has been lost in the bush at Manapouri for the past 12 days.

The A. U. S. N. Co.'s steamer Katoomba ran into the Government wharf at Brisbane on Saturday. The vessel was uninjured, but the wharf was considerably damaged, and a punt laden with coal was sunk.

There is a consensus of opinion that a thoroughly payable coalfield exists in the vicinity of Irwin, Western Australia.

The Notts admiral of Shrewsbury, the cricketer, has presented him with a purse of gold and an address.

Thomas Jones, a minor, has died from injuries he received from a gas explosion at the South Wallend Colliery.

A son named Ada Paterson, 10 years of age, saved two of her companions from drowning while bathing at Pinjarra, Western Australia.

NEGOTIATIONS are still proceeding in regard to the date of holding the annual meeting of the Federal Council. It is expected that the meeting will take place during January.

INCENDIARIES with a good fall of rain are very prevalent over the greater portion of Queensland.

EXCESSIVE cases of typhoid fever, eight of which were fatal, were reported in Melbourne last week. There were also 10 cases of diphtheria, 11 of which were fatal.

A CONFERENCE of the Alexandria and Waterloo Municipal Councils have decided that it is desirable to co-operate with the Government in having Botany-road wood-blocked.

JONERSON'S Railway Hotel and the Assembly Hall at Kurunuraburrah were destroyed by fire on Saturday morning.

A FIREMAN of a goods train was standing on the tender-box when passing under the bridge at New Farm, while the batt of the bridge struck him on the head, killing him instantly. A similar accident happened at this bridge some time ago.

THE question as to how far a Judge may exercise the power of committing for contempt has been raised in Queensland in a rather startling way. We published a few days ago a telegram from our Brisbane correspondent, which stated that the Government had under consideration the case of a man named Wilson, who had been committed by Mr. Justice Cooper to the Townsville Gaol for twelve months for writing a letter to the Port Denison Times, commenting upon the divorce suit of Buckland v. Buckland. From the Brisbane Courier we learn further that the letter, which was published on the 1st December, referred to a case which had been heard on the 19th and 20th November, that it was written in very strong terms, that after some copies of the paper had been printed it was cancelled and a fresh edition of the paper published, in which an apology was made for the appearance of the letter in the earlier copies. Presumably, therefore, the letter was an objectionable one, but to what extent we have no means of judging. But the question to be considered is not the propriety or impropriety of the letter, nor the culpability or otherwise of the writer; the point is the manner in which the judicial authority was exercised.

It is a sound rule that cases which are under the consideration of the Courts should not be made the subject of comment, and it is very seldom that newspapers transgress this rule or permit their correspondents to do so. But it has always been understood that when a case is ended, anyone is at liberty to criticise what has been done in court by Judge, jury, or counsel. This rule has been recognised and acted upon in England, and it has been recognised and acted upon in these colonies. If the privilege did not exist, if the Judges were at liberty to treat all comment as contempt, no newspaper could venture to criticise any proceeding in the Courts, no matter how unsatisfactory or improper it might be. A Judge might act with gross injustice or impropriety, and yet not a word could be said in the public press without the writer and the publisher being in danger of losing their liberty for an indefinite time. Such a condition of things would be intolerable; society would not permit it to continue. But in Northern Queensland, if we correctly interpret the events which have recently taken place there, an attempt has been made to deny altogether

the right of comment on judicial proceedings. As we have already said, the character of the letter, for writing which a man has been sent to gaol for twelve months, has nothing to do with the question. If the letter went beyond fair comment, if it attacked Judge, jury, or counsel in an offensive or defamatory way, the writer would have been amenable under the law of libel, and he could have been proceeded against by the Court in the ordinary manner in the course of justice. But the action of the Judge in this case does more than claim the right of the Court to punish for the publication of comments of an offensive kind; it is clear that Mr. Justice Cooper makes a correct estimate of his powers, he can commit for contempt the writer or publisher of the most innocent comment upon the proceedings of his Court.

Surely this is a monstrous power for a Judge to assume. No English Judge would have dared to use such a power. No English Judge would have imagined for a moment that such a power belonged to him. While the Judges in England do not hesitate to treat as contempt of Court any criticism upon cases *sub judice*, they acknowledge the right, not of newspapers only, but of every member of society, to discuss matters which have been decided upon by the Courts. This recognition of the right of comment was brought out very strongly in the case of Dallas v. LEDGER in the early part of this year, before Mr. Justice FIELD and Mr. Justice STEPHEN, in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice. We drew attention to the case at the time, and we may recall its main features with advantage. An action had been brought by Miss DALLAS, an actress, against Mr. LEDGER, the proprietor of the *Era* newspaper, for libel, and the jury found for the plaintiff, damages 40s. The defendant being dissatisfied, gave notice of an application, either for a new trial or to have judgment declared in his favour, and thereafter proceeded to publish in his paper an article commenting upon the verdict. An application was made to the Court on the part of the plaintiff to punish the defendant for contempt of Court, on the ground that the case was pending when the article was published, and that its publication was a direct attempt to interfere with the course of justice. The decision of the Court was against the plaintiff, the Judges holding that, the verdict having been given, the right of comment belonged to the defendant. In the judgments which were given, while the power of the Judges to inflict punishment where comment was used for the purpose of interfering with the course of justice was maintained, the privilege of the newspaper writer as well as every other member of society to criticise the proceedings of the Courts when cases have been closed was clearly admitted. We give a portion of Mr. Justice FIELD's remarks, as reported in the *Times*:

"It is the right of all men to comment on the acts and conduct of public men, whether judges or jurors. The article complained of by the jury that they had not found a proper verdict, and the writer used language which he had better not have used, and which was not in good taste. But the Court was asked to punish Mr. Ledger for this article, and they must have strong grounds for taking that course. Now the proceeding for contempt was for something serious: a contempt in the eyes of the Court, or an interference with the course of justice. Suppose, for instance, that this article had been published on the morning of the trial so that it would be in the hands of the jurors, it would be an interference with the course of justice, and would merit summary punishment. But this was a jurisdiction to be exercised with care and caution, and upon grounds which did not apply here. There was an undoubted right to make comments upon the conduct of judges and juries, and Mr. Murphy, with his usual fairness, admitted that if the article had been published before the notice of an application for a new trial, it could not have been complained of. . . . What, then, was the principle to be adopted? It must be this, that the article must be such as to influence the trial of the case, and prevent the tribunal from coming to a just and impartial decision. . . . But in this case he could not see any such interference with the course of justice, or any such attempt to prejudice the Court or jury as to justify the Court in making the order applied for."

Mr. Justice STEPHEN was of the same opinion. He pointed out that the power which the Court was asked to exercise rested upon a principle which was "very vague, and unavoidably so." It was one which "ought to be used as seldom as possible and almost entirely with reference to the interests of justice." "The Court must be satisfied that there had been something to interfere with the course of justice, or something likely to do so." When a trial had taken place "the Court had then done its work, the jury had given their verdict, and they were given over to criticism and comment, and of that they could not complain." The meaning of the words used by these Judges cannot be misunderstood. According to these high authorities judicial proceedings may be commented upon by anyone, provided that there is no interference with the course of justice. But Mr. Justice Cooper, in Queensland, seems to hold a different view; he sends to gaol for twelve months the writer of a letter who ventures to comment upon a case that is past and gone. The punishment has been inflicted; it seems evident, not because the course of justice has been interfered with, but because of the nature of the criticism. This is a dangerous interference with the liberty of the subject, and brings in a principle which is injurious to the administration of justice. If Mr. Justice Cooper can send a man to gaol for a year for writing a letter, what is to prevent him from dealing similarly with the writer or publisher of an article in which the proceedings of the Courts are criticised in the interests of society? The power of committing for contempt is legitimately used in compelling respect for the Court or in preventing interference with the course of justice, but it cannot be carried beyond either point with safety to society.

According to a report which has reached us, Lord CARNANVON, in an address delivered at Newbury a few weeks ago, drew a comparison between the literary advantages enjoyed by the masses in the mother-country and those at the command of people in the Australian colonies. Lord CARNANVON, it appears, spoke as follows:—"There are certain drawbacks which everyone must expect to find in a new country—such, for instance, as a comparative deficiency of books, a comparative deficiency of literary and intellectual converse: these things are the product of an old society, and we must not complain if we do not find them in those stirring, busy, hard-working hives of industry, as they really deserve to be called, in many parts of

the new world." In these remarks the noble Earl does little more than repeat a somewhat good form of words, containing it is true a good deal of fact, but at the same time bordering very closely on what bears a suspicious resemblance to fiction. Of course, the most enthusiastic apologist of Australian social conditions cannot help a candid confession, at the very outset of what he may have to say, that these colonies have in every respect a great deal yet to learn from the mother-country. He would be a very injudicious average Australian colonist is better able to afford to purchase books, as well as the time to read them, the balance would seem to incline in favour of the colonist as against the provincial resident of the same class at home.

For property-owners the land "boom" in Melbourne and suburbs has its unpleasant as well as its pleasant aspects. To their friends they may cheerfully descent on the rise in the values, as indicated by the sales of adjoining properties; but when the tax-gatherer comes round the value exhibits a remarkable shrinkage. In the interests of the Borough Council of Prahran the valuers have this year rated property on the basis of some recent sales made during the height of the land "boom." There have in consequence been no fewer than one hundred and fifty appeals against the assessments. And in the seven cases dealt with on Thursday there were large reductions. One property, which had been rated at £350, was suddenly raised to £500. But the Court cut down the valuation to £500, and allowed the appellant £10 10s. costs. Another property at Toorak, bought in 1881 for £2050, was valued at £30,000. The annual value was reduced from £1500 as assessed to £845. The new valuations of other properties were reduced in like proportions. The Bench marked their disapprobation of the excessive valuations not only by reducing them but by giving high costs to the appellants, and eventually when several cases had been dealt with the solicitor for the Council managed to obtain an adjournment, with a view if possible to effect a reduction of the valuations by compromise. It was generally felt that the great jump in the valuations was not warranted by the casual sales which had been made at inflated prices. It is perfectly ridiculous to suppose that land in one year could have advanced in value from over 100 to 100 per cent. For their own purposes owners of subdivisions, taking advantage of prevailing excitement, threw them on the market and secured prices out of all proportion to real value. When the sobering effects of the true reproductive power come to be experienced, and it is found what rentals are realised, buyers will begin to see that they have paid too much for their land and properties. Unless the assessments were too low before, we question whether there is any justification for such an advance even as the Court has approved. It may well be asked, what has occurred in Melbourne to justify an annual valuation of £500 for premises at Toorak which two years ago were valued at £350? An increase of rental of 42 per cent. is hardly warranted by any progress on which the basis of values is determinable. By and bye, when the reaction becomes more pronounced, this will probably be more apparent. In the meantime the property-owners of Prahran have to pay higher rates. If well spent, of course the money will not be lost. The value of the properties will be all the more quickly brought up to the level to which they have been raised by the artificial inflation of speculators.

It is the right of all men to comment on the acts and conduct of public men, whether judges or jurors. The article complained of by the jury that they had not found a proper verdict, and the writer used language which he had better not have used, and which was not in good taste. But the Court was asked to punish Mr. Ledger for this article, and they must have strong grounds for taking that course. Now the proceeding for contempt was for something serious: a contempt in the eyes of the Court, or an interference with the course of justice. Suppose, for instance, that this article had been published on the morning of the trial so that it would be in the hands of the jurors, it would be an interference with the course of justice, and would merit summary punishment. But this was a jurisdiction to be exercised with care and caution, and upon grounds which did not apply here. There was an undoubted right to make comments upon the conduct of judges and juries, and Mr. Murphy, with his usual fairness, admitted that if the article had been published before the notice of an application for a new trial, it could not have been complained of. . . . What, then, was the principle to be adopted? It must be this, that the article must be such as to influence the trial of the case, and prevent the tribunal from coming to a just and impartial decision. . . . But in this case he could not see any such interference with the course of justice, or any such attempt to prejudice the Court or jury as to justify the Court in making the order applied for."

Mr. Justice STEPHEN was of the same opinion. He pointed out that the power which the Court was asked to exercise rested upon a principle which was "very vague, and unavoidably so." It was one which "ought to be used as seldom as possible and almost entirely with reference to the interests of justice." "The Court must be satisfied that there had been something to interfere with the course of justice, or something likely to do so." When a trial had taken place "the Court had then done its work, the jury had given their verdict, and they were given over to criticism and comment, and of that they could not complain." The meaning of the words used by these Judges cannot be misunderstood. According to these high authorities judicial proceedings may be commented upon by anyone, provided that there is no interference with the course of justice. But Mr. Justice Cooper, in Queensland, seems to hold a different view; he sends to gaol for twelve months the writer of a letter who ventures to comment upon a case that is past and gone. The punishment has been inflicted; it seems evident, not because the course of justice has been interfered with, but because of the nature of the criticism. This is a dangerous interference with the liberty of the subject, and brings in a principle which is injurious to the administration of justice. If Mr. Justice Cooper can send a man to gaol for a year for writing a letter, what is to prevent him from dealing similarly with the writer or publisher of an article in which the proceedings of the Courts are criticised in the interests of society? The power of committing for contempt is legitimately used in compelling respect for the Court or in preventing interference with the course of justice, but it cannot be carried beyond either point with safety to society.

We are desired to call attention to the fact that Monday, the 24th instant, has been proclaimed a bank holiday under the 4th section of the Bank Holidays Act of 1875. This will of course, under the 1st section of the Civil Service Act, also apply to the public service, but will not of necessity interfere with the operation of private business.

We are informed that at the instance of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, a sub-committee of the Privy Council of the Dominion of Canada has under consideration the question of subsidising a fast line of Canadian Atlantic steamers. The decision of the sub-committee, which is expected to be delivered at an early date, will be awaited with considerable interest, as the company are given to understand, will push on with the Canadian-Australian line. If they can secure a fast Atlantic-Canadian line on the other side, it may be mentioned that the same company has accomplished the distance from Hongkong to London in the fast time of 27 days 8 hours, and that the British Government have determined to subsidise that line.

On Saturday at Clontarf, a complimentary piano was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. See by their many friends, on the occasion of their early departure for Europe. A luncheon was held, at which Mr. H. Clarke, M.L.A., who presided, submitted the toast of "Our Guest." He spoke in eloquent terms of Mr. See as a business man, and made a slight reference to his Parliamentary duties. The toasts of "Mrs. See and Ladis of the Colony" and "The Commercial Interests" were honoured, and an address from the citizens of Randwick was read. The children of the family were present, and the entertainment was a success.

On Saturday at 1 p.m. the Royal Hospital for the Blind, Cook's Lane, Concord, was opened. The ceremony was performed by Mr. C. H. Ohlsson, M.A., Consulting Engineer to the Department of Roads and Bridges. The ceremony was opened with a short address by Mr. C. H. Ohlsson, Consulting Engineer to the Department of Roads and Bridges. The ceremony was opened with a short address by Mr. C. H. Ohlsson, Consulting Engineer to the Department of Roads and Bridges.

The following is the order of musical service at St. Andrew's Cathedral this afternoon, 4.30:—Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, Walmley in D minor; "O taste and see how gracious the Lord is" (Sullivan).

THE ROYAL ALFRED Hospital report for the week ending December 15 was as follows:—Number of in-patients at last report, 126 males and 126 females; discharged, 21 males, 21 females; died, 3 males, 7 females; remaining in hospital on 15th December, 123 males, 74 females; number of out-patients treated during the week, 330; number of casualty cases treated but not admitted, 187; total, 517.

THE RIGHT HON. W. H. SMITH.

THE STATE OF HIS HEALTH.

(By CARLE.)

(From OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 15.

The Right Hon. W. H. Smith, First Lord of the Treasury, and leader of the House of Commons, will shortly proceed to Monte Carlo for the benefit of his health.

During the absence of the Right Hon. W. H. Smith the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen Chancellor of the Exchequer, will undertake the leadership of the House of Commons.

THE FATE OF STANLEY.

OSMAN DIGNA'S LETTER.

THE CAPTURE OF STANLEY

GENERALLY CREDITED.

REPORTED SURRENDER OF EMIN BEY.

SUAKIM TO BE RELIEVED WITHOUT DELAY.

(By CARLE.)

(From OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 14.

The letter which Osman Digna sent to General Sir George Grenfell, the British Commander of the garrison at Suakin, gives details of the surrender of Emin Bey and a white traveller to the Mahdi's troops at Lado on October 10th.

Osman Digna has also sent a letter, which he asserts was taken from the white traveller. It is a copy of a letter given by the Khedive to Mr. H. M. Stanley, and intended for Emin Bey.

Osman Digna has produced to the British authorities at Suakin under cartridges, which are said to be like the

EUROPEAN CABLEGRAMS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

LONDON, Dec. 15.

The Employers' Liability Act Amendment Bill, introduced into the House of Commons, has been withdrawn owing to the opposition to the measure.

THE BURRA MINE.

LONDON, Dec. 15.

It is reported that the Burra Copper Mine and machinery, South Australia, have been sold to a syndicate for £25,000, exclusive of 2000 acres of town lands.

EXPORT OF BEEF FROM THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

LONDON, Dec. 15.

The Congress of the Argentine Confederation has unanimously adopted a Fresh Beef Export Bounty Bill of 8,000,000 dollars.

THE BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

LONDON, Dec. 15.

It is announced that Messrs. Sidney Carr, Glyn, A. J. Ewen, and David Murray (of Adelaide) have joined the London board of the Bank of New Zealand.

PRESENTATION TO SHREWSBURY.

LONDON, Dec. 15.

The Notts admirers of Shrewsbury the cricketer, have presented him with a purse of sovereigns and an address, in recognition of his services in connection with the county cricketing team.

THE LONDON WOOL SALES.

LONDON, Dec. 16.

The closing wool sale in the London market has been postponed on account of the prevalence of a dense fog.

THE MAORI FOOTBALLERS.

LONDON, Dec. 16.

The Maori footballers have defeated the players of Broughton, near Manchester, by two goals and two tries to nothing.

GOLD-MINING IN QUEENSLAND.

LONDON, Dec. 15.

The Gilberton Gold-mining Company, Queensland, with a capital of £40,000, is announced.

THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

LONDON, Dec. 14.

The motion brought forward in the American House of Representatives by Mr. Butterworth, of Ohio, to the effect that the President be empowered to invite Canada and England to negotiate for the admission of the Dominion, or any province of it, into the United States, has been referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

NATIVE RISING AT ZANZIBAR.

THE GERMAN POLICY.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 15.

The German Reichstag has adopted, by a large majority, Herr Windthorst's motion pledging itself to suppress slavery within the territory annexed by Germany at Zanzibar.

Count Herbert von Bismarck, speaking on the motion, eulogised England's cordial help, and advocated the enrolment of a thousand natives to garrison the coast towns likely to be threatened by the rebel natives.

The Reichstag was favourable to a spirited policy.

MR. GLADSTONE AT LIMEHOUSE.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 16.

Mr. Gladstone, in addressing a meeting at Limehouse yesterday, said that it was a hopeless task to attempt to conquer the Soudan. He accused the Government of wasting the time of the House, and of abridging private members' privileges. He considered that the Parnellites exercised great forbearance.

THE REPRESENTATION OF MAIDSTON.

DEFEAT OF A HOME RULE CANDIDATE.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 15.

The vacancy in the Parliamentary representation of Maidstone, caused by the death of Major Ross, has been filled by the election of Mr. Cornwallis, who defeated the Home Rule candidate by a majority of 185 votes.

THE SUNDAY CLOSING QUESTION.

THE BILL NEGATED.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 15.

The Sunday Closing Bill, intended to prohibit the opening of public-houses during stated periods on Sundays, as at present, has been negatived in the House of Commons by seven votes.

PROPOSED EMIGRATION OF CROFTERS.

THE COMMITTEE ABANDONED.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 15.

The idea of forming a committee to organise a scheme for the emigration of crofters from Scotland has been abandoned.

MINING AT BROKEN HILL.

At the bottom of the Broken Hill mine, a bottle of Walker's Whisky was found by a workman planted by the side of the lode. The workman - he took the whisky and left the lode. [ADVT.]

THE TIMES-PARNELL COMMISSION.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COMMISSION.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 14.

The sittings of the Times-Parnell Commission have been adjourned till January 15. At the sitting to-day, Sir Charles Russell cross-examined the member of the National League who was examined before the Commission on the 4th instant. The witness produced a letter addressed to his brother, stating that he thought he could make a few pounds, but that he could not do so unless he were queer things. His brother telephoned to him, exhorting him to contradict his previous statement, and offering to pay all costs. The witness adhered to his statements.

DEATH OF PRINCE ALEXANDER OF HESSE.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 16.

The death is announced of Prince Alexander of Hesse, father of Prince Alexander of Battenberg.

[The late Prince Alexander of Hesse was born on 15th July, 1823, and married on the 28th October, 1851, Princess Julia of Battenberg.]

THE INTERCOLONIAL CRICKET MATCHES.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, SUNDAY.

A meeting of the committee of the Associated Cricket Club was held last night to consider the proposed arrangement with the Melbourne Cricket Club with the New South Wales Association. Mr. Keleher was chairman. The speakers condemned the action of the Melbourne Cricket Club, and considered it would tend to complicate the dispute between the two associations and indefinitely postpone or spoil altogether any chance of a settlement. It was pointed out that South Australia had a team able to hold their own against any colony, and their claims should be considered. The terms of the conference, viz., one match annually against each colony, being a just and a convenient arrangement, it should be adhered to. It was resolved that the "V. A. C. should have determined, in the terms of the conference, to play only one match with New South Wales, the proposal of the M. C. C. to arrange a match with the New South Wales Association is considered disloyal to the V. C. A., and that therefore the M. C. C. be requested not to arrange any match with New South Wales." It was resolved to forward a copy of the resolution to the M. C. C. The meeting was adjourned till Friday.

COURAGEOUS RESCUE FROM DROWNING.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PERTH, SATURDAY.

A courageous rescue from drowning at Pinjarra is reported. Two girls were bathing in the river, and one of them, who was unable to swim, got beyond her depth. Her companion went to her assistance, and was dragged under. A girl named Ada Peterson, 10 years of age, a good swimmer, went to their aid and saved them, but nearly lost her own life in the effort.

COAL IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PERTH, SATURDAY.

A second coal-mining company is in formation. The mine is at Irwin. Most encouraging accounts have been received. It appears that there is a general consensus of opinion that there is an extra-probable chance of the existence of a thoroughly payable coalfield in that locality.

THE NEWCASTLE MINERS.

DISSATISFACTION WITH THE NEW AGREEMENT.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEWCASTLE, SATURDAY.

The evidence of Dr. G. F. Smith, Mr. John Mumby (mate of the deceased), and Mr. John Johnson (owner), shows that the deceased and two more men were sinking a shaft at the colliery, and had not gone down 300 ft. on the 28th ultimo, and were working with naked lights. They had got one safety lamp from the overseer, but this went out. They then struck a light with a match and lit a naked lamp. The gas then ignited, burnt a match and lit a naked lamp. The gas then ignited, burnt another, and relapsed, and died on Thursday last.

The jury returned a verdict of death from injuries received accidentally through the ignition of gas at the South Wallsend Company's shaft, Lynmouth, riding a slate which they considered great precautions should be taken in water-bearing shafts which had been allowed to fill.

FIRE AT MURRUMBURRAH.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TASMANIA.

Mr. A. Crisp has been re-elected Mayor of Hobart, and Mr. D. Scott, Mayor of Launceston.

The New South Wales and South Australian teams who take part in the rifle match at the Sandy Bay range, which commenced to-morrow, arrived on Friday, and were entertained at the Town Hall.

A discovery of gold in the Mount Bischoff claim are said to suffer a reduction of from £1,000 to £1,500 per ton. At South Waratah the prices paid according to the agreement are stated to be fair below that demanded by the miners. The miners are paid less than they want to work the mine. The average pay at the mine will probably be about £100 per ton, exclusive of the expenses for powder, &c. At Burrow the miners receive the same as previous to the strike.

THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS IN THE SOUTH.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

ALBURY, SUNDAY.

The Railway Commissioners arrived here last night, and started to-day for Corowa. They will return from Corowa along the route of the proposed railway to Culcairn to-morrow, leaving for Sydney the same evening.

A MAIL TRAIN THROWN OFF THE LINE.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEWCASTLE, SATURDAY.

About 3 o'clock this morning the up mail train from Pinjarra ran over a block about half a mile on the Sydney side of Cockle Creek. The sleeping-car and another carriage were thrown on the line, and the train was delayed for three hours. It did not reach Mullet Creek till 7.30. Mr. F. R. Neild, acting manager, and his staff were on the spot supervising repairs.

THE REPRESENATION OF MAIDSTONE.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 16.

Mr. Gladstone, in addressing a meeting at Limehouse yesterday, said that it was a hopeless task to attempt to conquer the Soudan. He accused the Government of wasting the time of the House, and of abridging private members' privileges. He considered that the Parnellites exercised great forbearance.

THE BILL NEGATED.

(BY CABLE.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 15.

The Sunday Closing Bill, intended to prohibit the opening of public-houses during stated periods on Sundays, as at present, has been negatived in the House of Commons by seven votes.

INTERCOLONIAL NEWS.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.)

VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, SUNDAY.

Yesterday Mr. John Blyth entertained the Caledonian Society at a picnic at Altona Bay, about 200 proceeding by train and a large number by steamer.

At the Sandhurst Town Hall on Saturday night the Mayor presented the medals and certificates of the Royal Humane Society to 22 mines, including three mine managers, for conspicuous bravery in saving life in the Swan-hoosh mine a few months ago. They had been previously presented with certificates for bravery.

The trial of Walter Ball, Edward White, and Joseph Pittman, charged with the shearer's outrage at Woodlawn station on November 9, took place at Warrnambool on Friday. At 10 o'clock at night the jury found Ball not guilty, and they were unable to agree with regard to the other two, and the prisoners were discharged. The two latter were ordered to take trial at the next assizes. Ball was allowed.

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Action Sales.

FOR ABSOLUTE SALE.

NORTH ANANDALE ESTATE.

LAND, having 24 ft. frontage to YOUNG-STREET and 25 ft. to PITT-STREET, depth through 150 ft.

On it are erected the following premises:—
YOUNG-STREET.—ETHEL and ADA, 2 COTTAGES, of brick or stone, with verandas in front, and each containing 2 rooms, kitchen, front, and back.

PEIRLS-STREET.—GERTRUDE, COTTAGE, of brick, with veranda in front and containing hall, 2 rooms, kitchen, and back.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH will sell by auction, at the Rooms, on FRIDAY, December 21, at 11 o'clock.

The above, now described as North Anandale Estate, and will be sold cheap. Torrens's title. (2821)

BUILDING SOCIETY'S BLOCK.

Or for other Speculation.

LEICHARDT, LEICHARDT.

BALMAIN-ROAD and DERRYN-SHIRE-ROAD,

640 FEET frontage to former

635 FEET alto to latter.

A Valuable Junction Position,

DENSE POPULATION,

with every facility for the comfort of

Business Occupations,

IN ONE BLOCK.

Remember to Inspect.

TITLE, TORRENS'S ACT.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH will sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, on FRIDAY, first December, at 11 o'clock.

The above, now new Town Hall, Post Office, and on a fine site.

CAMERDOWN, 200 FEET frontage to Pitt-street, view on.

GREVILLE J. LEWIS, Esq., Conveyancer, 35, Castlereagh-street, acts for Vendor. (3002)

ROOKWOOD.

CORNER BLOCK of LAND, 860 ft. to JAMES-STREET, 1870 ft. to HAPHAZ-THREE-STREET, and 360 ft. to road at rear.

On the South Side of Lane, and East of the Main Business Street.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH will sell by auction, at the Rooms, on FRIDAY, December 21, at 11 o'clock.

The above, by order of the Mortgagor. Torrens's title. (2819)

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE.

BLIND POSITION AND RESIDENCE,

corner of WILLIAM and LENA STREETS.

The land is a corner block, having the following frontages, viz.:—

About 100 ft. to WILLIAM-STREET

and 160 ft. to LENA-STREET.

On it is erected a large and comfortable residence, built of weather-board, containing 11 apartments, tower, kitchen, and bathroom, and other conveniences.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH have received instructions to sell by public auction, at the Rooms, Pitt-street, on FRIDAY, the 21st DECEMBER.

The above unique property, inspection of which is invited. The climate is one of the driest and most healthy around Sydney, and the views from the conveniently and well situated roomy house, commanding a fine prospect, are unsurpassed. A mile-and-a-half walk from the station on the higher and better side of railway. Effectively laid-out grounds and garden surround the residence.

Title unquestionable. Messrs. Norton, Smith, and Westgarth are solicitors for the mortgagee. (2809)

GRANTHAM, RIVERSTONE.

LOT 27 to 33 inclusive of sec. 14, and lots 50 to 72 inclusive of sec. 13 of above subdivision, each lot having 30 ft. frontage to WELLINGTON-STREET, with a depth of 200 ft.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH will sell by auction, at the Rooms, on FRIDAY, the 21st December, at 11 o'clock.

The above, Title, Torrens's. Plan on view. (3022)

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BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE.

MAIN ROAD FROM MANLY TO SPIT,

only

15 MINUTES' WALK from the PIER.

GRAY'S CHANT, 1a, 2a, 3a,

together with

WEATHERBOARD COTTAGE, 4 rooms, foundation, with veranda in front and containing 4 rooms.

An elevated position, opposite the home of the Hon. G. W. Dally's residence, and near Mr. Vivian's.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH will sell by auction, at the Rooms, on FRIDAY, the 21st December, at 11 o'clock.

The above well situated property, on

MANLY HEIGHTS.

The land has 500 ft. frontage to the main road, from Manly to Spit, and 100 ft. depth, with over 100 feet.

RICHARDSON and WRENCH will sell by auction, at the Rooms, on FRIDAY, the 21st December, at 11 o'clock.

The above, Title, Torrens's. Plan on view. (3022)

BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE.

IN A DECEASED ESTATE.

MAIN ROAD FROM MANLY TO SPIT,

only

15 MINUTES' WALK from the PIER.

GRAY'S CHANT, 1a, 2a, 3a,

together with

WEATHERBOARD COTTAGE, 4 rooms, foundation, with veranda in front and containing 4 rooms.

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